

# IN JUBILÆO



SAINT BENET AND ALL SAINTS

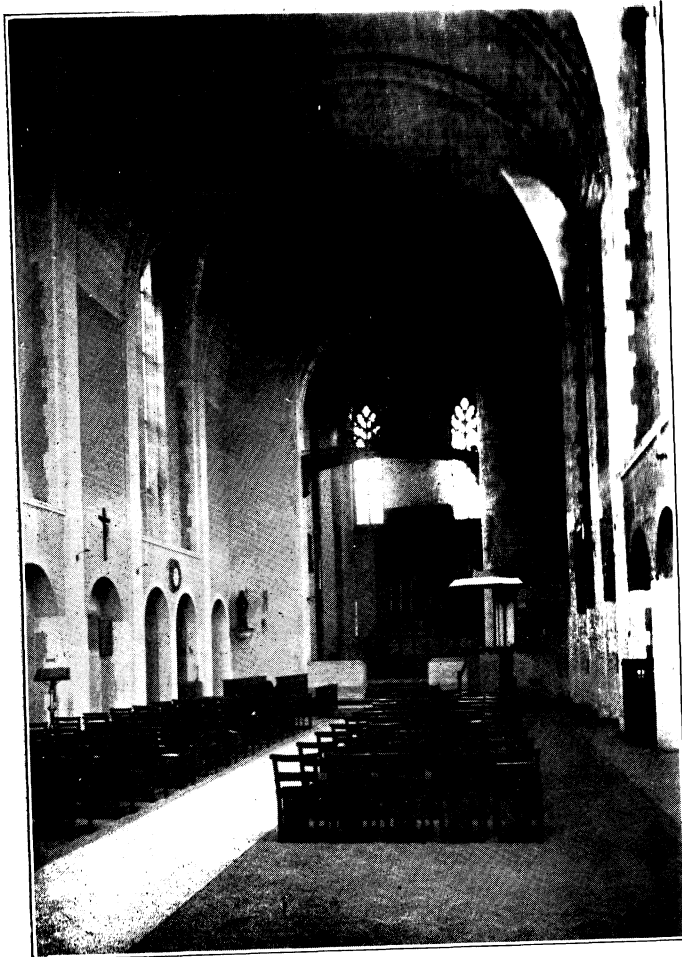
KENTISH TOWN, LONDON

5 ————— 1935

# IN JUBILÆO

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE  
CHURCH AND PARISH OF  
S. BENET AND ALL SAINTS  
KENTISH TOWN, LONDON

*Published in the year of our Lord, nineteen  
hundred and thirty five, fifty years after  
their foundation*



CHURCH INTERIOR -- PRESENT DAY



“A joyful and pleasant thing it is to be thankful”

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## PREFACE

To write a true and faithful history of any long continued chain of events is beyond the wit of man. To do so would require the assembling of thousands of facts, a knowledge not only of the deeds and words of many persons, but also a sharing of their inmost thoughts and aspirations.

To use such material in just proportion would need more judgment than any ordinary man might possess, and to write such a history and perchance to read it, might be infinitely tedious.

Yet an artist in another medium may sometimes by a line or two and a subtle use of light and shade, bring to our minds such a portion of reality as suggests and recalls the whole.

In this book so much has had to be omitted, through lack of space, that many portions may be justly termed impressionistic sketches rather than history. If, in spite of careful investigation, errors have crept in, we trust that the record may still be sufficiently reliable to recall to some the memories of the past and to arouse the interest of a future generation.

The writers of this book, gratefully remembering many people not mentioned herein who have loved and served St. Benet's, dedicate it to all those who in the future shall share in that love and service.



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## CHAPTER I.

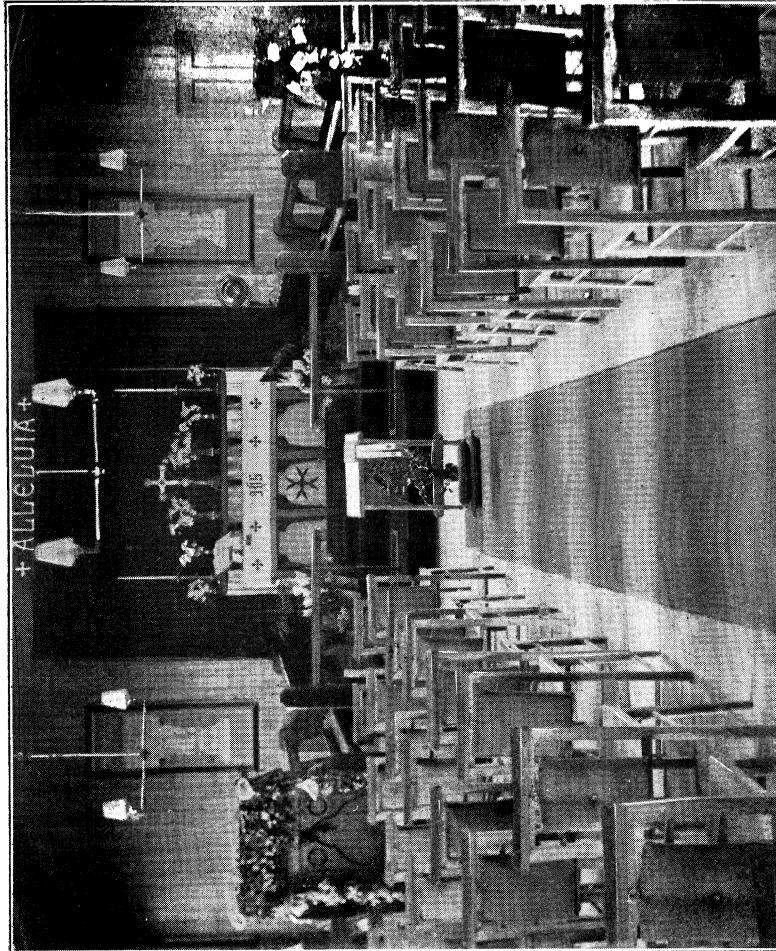
### EARLY DAYS.

#### THE TEMPORARY CHURCH, AND THE BUILDING OF THE ORIGINAL NAVE.

THERE is always a certain romance in the founding of a parish. It is interesting to picture the condition of the district in Kentish Town to which the Rev. Frank Oakley Rowland was sent in 1881.

Not many years earlier almost the entire neighbourhood was meadowland. An interesting map, dated 1805, shows a footpath leading from Brecknock Road, near the corner of what now is Ospringle Road, to a point in Fortress Road not far from the present Acland School. This path must have passed very close to the north end of our Hall site, and on this map, close by, a pond is marked alongside the left of the path. One of our parishioners recalls that Fr. Rowland often went out from the back door of the Mission Church to summon St. Benet's first choirboys from the enticements of the pond into choir practice. One of the present parish boundaries, Fortress Road, formerly known as Fortress Lane and later for a short period as Junction Road, was by no means a new road, and there was a turnpike at the corner where Barclays Bank now stands. Another boundary of the parish, Brecknock Road, formerly known as Maiden Lane, was a very ancient road leading to London by what is now called York Road. Maiden Lane is supposed to have been so named from an image of our Lady, which in old days stood at some point of it. Camden the historian says, "It was opened to the public in the year 1300, and was then the principal road for all travellers proceeding to Highgate and the north."

In 1881 London was spreading rapidly northwards, and houses were already built on the lower part of Lady Margaret Road and Levertton Street, and in several side streets. When St. Benet's Parish, cut out of Kentish Town Parish, was first formed, it extended to the railway bridge on Dartmouth Park Hill and to Highgate Road, the right-hand side of Lady Somerset Road being the boundary. It therefore contained the picturesque cottages of Little Green Street. The parish as



INTERIOR OF MISSION CHURCH

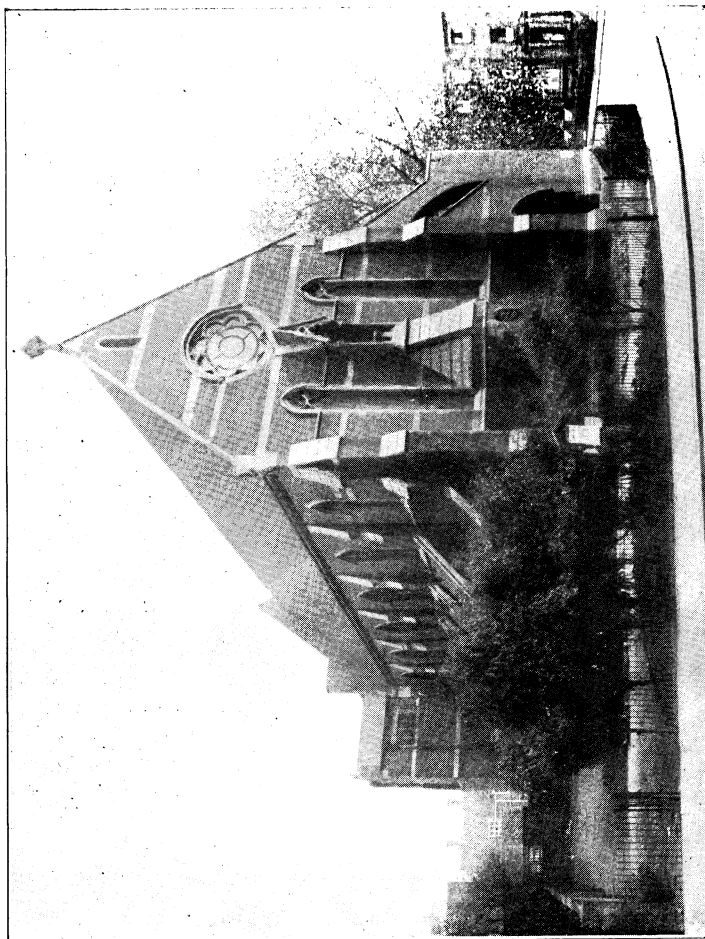
its boundaries are to-day must have possessed in 1881 only a few houses of any antiquity. The old Manor House of Kennistoun stood on our side of Falkland Road only a short distance from Fortess Road. This house with its four gables must have been most picturesque, judging from a water-colour drawing in the St. Paneras Library, Chester Road. When it was pulled down in 1895 for the purpose of widening Fortess Road and the extension of Falkland Road into Fortess Road, it had been shorn of its former glory, as it then consisted of one gable only and was let out in rooms to weekly tenants. An old farm house with considerable garden formerly stood on the site of the Acland School. The only really old house still left in the parish is Montpelier House in Brecknock Road.

It is said that the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's and especially Canon (later Dean) Gregory interested themselves very greatly in the formation of the new parish and Dean Gregory was the first chairman of the Building Committee and presided at the meetings.

Fr. Rowland was a former curate at St. Mary the Less, Lambeth, and was the nominee of Canon Gregory who had been vicar of that church.

When Fr. Rowland arrived he at once set about building the temporary Mission Church, now our Hall. A site, more than an acre in extent, for Church Hall and Vicarage had been given by St. John's College, Cambridge. On Sunday, July 17th, 1881, the Mission Church was opened for worship. An interesting description of the Morning Service that day is found in the correspondence on "The Churches and Ritualism," which was going on at that time in "The Rock." The letter appears under the heading, *St. Benet and All Saints', Kentish Town*, and is dated July 25th, 1881.

"The temporary church was opened on Sunday week, and, being a parishioner, perhaps I may be allowed a word upon the service. It commenced with Holy Communion at eight a.m.; Mattins, Litany, and Sermon at eleven a.m. I attended the latter. The church, I should say, would not hold more than 200, and was fairly attended. There is a large "altar," covered with a gorgeous cloth, upon which stand vases of flowers, candles, and a massive brass jewelled cross. The choir wore cassocks and surplices, the boys' cassocks being violet. Mr. Rowland, the incumbent, was vested in cassock, surplice, and hood, with a white embroidered stole, also his assisting priest, minus the hood. The music was chiefly Gregorian, and the incumbent knelt at a small



EXTERIOR OF ORIGINAL NAVE

desk, with his back to the people and facing the "altar" while he intoned the Litany, which was painful to hear. The Sermon was preached by the incumbent from the words, "O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness," during which he compared the services of the old dispensation and those of our own churches to those of Heaven as described by St. John in the Book of the Revelation, not forgetting to lay special stress on Christ's real presence on the 'altar.'"

Further on in the letter mention is made that Mr. Rowland belonged to the English Church Union and it concludes with a final appeal, "Will churchmen of this district tolerate such doctrines and practices, which are really subversive of Christianity itself!"

Evidently from the first St. Benet's was regarded in some quarters as a hotbed of "Ritualism."

Fr. Rowland soon found that the Mission Church was inadequate for the many activities he was starting—Mothers' Meetings, Sewing and other classes, Bank, Clothing Clubs, Readings and Sunday School. He therefore rented No. 5, Dartmouth Park Hill as a Church House for Mission purposes, mainly in that part of the parish.

Fr. Rowland from the first was greatly helped in the Sunday School work and in the collecting of money for the Building Fund by a devoted layman, Mr. Richard Marshall.

A steady increase in the congregation soon made the building of a permanent church imperative. Mr. Joseph Peacock, of Bloomsbury Square, was chosen as architect, and the year 1885 saw the rise of the first Church of St. Benet and All Saints. It is of interest to record that the title "St. Benet" was derived from the Church of St. Benet, Paul's Wharf, near Queen Victoria Street (now used by Welsh Churchpeople), from the funds of which the new St. Benet's received some assistance.

This chapter may fitly conclude with two extracts from "The Church Times." In its issue of June 19th, 1885, there is the following description of the laying of the foundation stone:—

"On Saturday afternoon last (June 13th) the Bishop of London laid the foundation stone of the new church for this district. At 3 o'clock a long procession left the temporary church, and headed by the cross-bearer, made its way to the

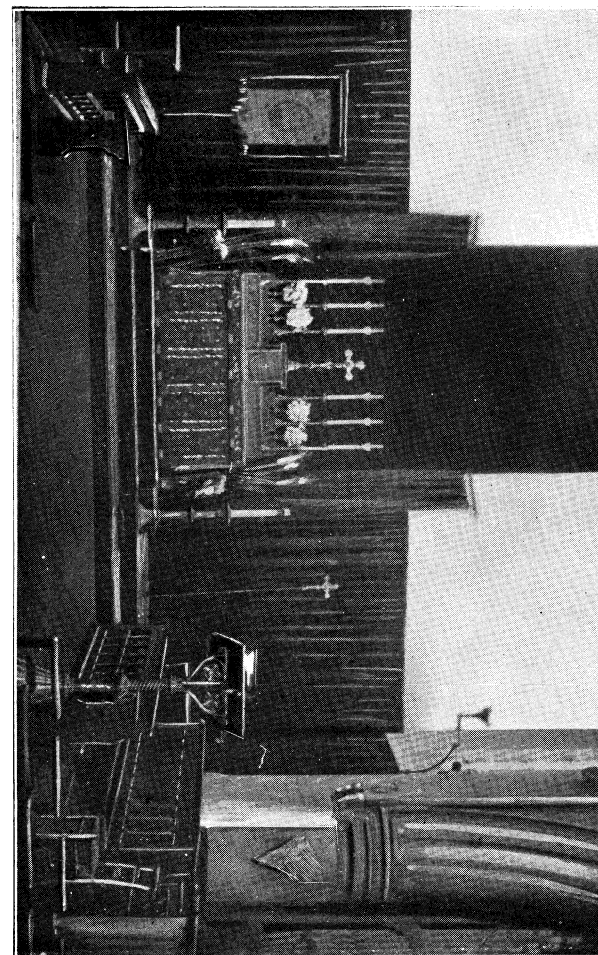
vicarage, where, having been joined by the Churchwardens, the Building Committee, the architect, Mr. Thornton (as representative of the Bishop of London's Fund, who have made a grant of £1,000 to the church), the Master of St. John's College, Cambridge, the Rev. F. O. Rowland, and the Bishop, with his chaplain, it turned towards the site of the new church, singing, "Blessed city, heavenly Salem." After a short service had been sung, the Bishop laid the stone, and then delivered an address."

And in its issue of November 6th, 1885, the consecration of the new Church is described :—

"On Saturday last (Oct. 31st) the Bishop of London visited North West London—a district which, until lately, has been somewhat deficient in church accommodation—and consecrated the completed portion of what gives promise of being, when finished, a handsome and stately addition to the churches of the Metropolis. . . . The service of consecration began with a procession of choir (in surplices and cassocks), clergy, and Building Committee, preceded by cross-bearer, to the West end of the nave, where the petition for consecration was presented to the Bishop and read by the Registrar. The procession then moved up the central aisle singing Psalm 24 ; and when the clergy and choir had taken their places, and the Bishop had been conducted to his seat on the North side of the sanctuary, the deed of conveyance was presented to him and laid on the altar which was furnished with a brass cross the two Communion and six Vesper lights, besides vases for flowers. After some Collects had been said by the Bishop, the deed of consecration was signed by him."

The clergy and congregation of St. Benet's might well look forward now with hopefulness to strengthening the position of the church in their rapidly growing parish.

ORIGINAL HIGH ALTAR







INTERIOR IN 1905

## CHAPTER II.

### FR. HALL'S DAYS.

OWING no doubt to the firm spiritual foundation laid by Fr. Rowland the new permanent Church sprang at once to life and soon became well attended. His successor, the Rev. H. E. Hall, who had previously worked in the parish as assistant priest, was a sound theologian and teacher, and a vigorous and successful preacher. His sermons, as was customary in those days, were full of quotations from the Scriptures and the Fathers and his people never tired of listening to him. It was often necessary to come to Church early to secure a seat. We must remember of course that it was a churchgoing period and that the many Sunday distractions of to-day did not then exist.

It was moreover the heyday of the Catholic Revival and the influence of such fairly near churches as St. Alban's, Holborn, All Saints', Margaret Street, St. Mary Magdalene's, Munster Square, and Christ Church, Albany Street, was spreading far and wide.

There was indeed a great bond between St. Benet's and St. Alban's. Fr. Stanton began his yearly custom of preaching here at All-Saints-tide, a custom continued faithfully almost to the year of his death, and everything done at St. Alban's was copied or adapted sooner or later at St. Benet's. From time to time the pulpit was occupied by Fr. Ignatius, O.S.B., the reviver of Religious Orders for men in the Church of England, and later by Canon Scott Holland and other well-known preachers. Indeed it may be said that even to the present time there has never been lacking the kindly help of priests prominent in the English Catholic world. We must remember also that the wave of religion was general at this time and that almost every church in the Deanery, and every chapel too, was well filled Sunday by Sunday.

Visiting in such a large parish at once proved a difficulty which was dealt with by Fr. Hall in an original and practical manner. Several times a week he slowly perambulated the parish reading his Office and people became used to looking out for him and calling him in to visit sick folk and to arrange for churchings, christenings and the like.

Music, as is said elsewhere, became a prominent feature and weekly anthems at Sunday Evensong were much appreciated by the people of that day. Children's work was

much to the fore and for some long period much was done by a layman Mr. (now Sir) Henry Buckland.

Guilds such as the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament, the Guild of All Souls, and the Sodality of St. Joseph for Men, were all introduced and were a novelty at that time and kept together many people in a bond of spiritual fellowship.

Unfortunately St. Benet's had no day schools but in 1892 a small private day school next door to the church, known as the Liddon Memorial School, was opened by the Sisters of the Church, of Kilburn. This at once became a most useful institution and continued its activity until it was finally closed in 1929, so many other secondary schools having been started in the neighbourhood. The Liddon Memorial School was for girls and young boys and many people still connected with St. Benet's look back with gratitude to their happy days at "the Liddon" and to the tender and loving training of the good Sisters.

Sisters Lavinia and Verena who ran the school for so many years, endeared themselves to every member of St. Benet's congregation and their quiet unobtrusive work in the sacristy and church was greatly appreciated.

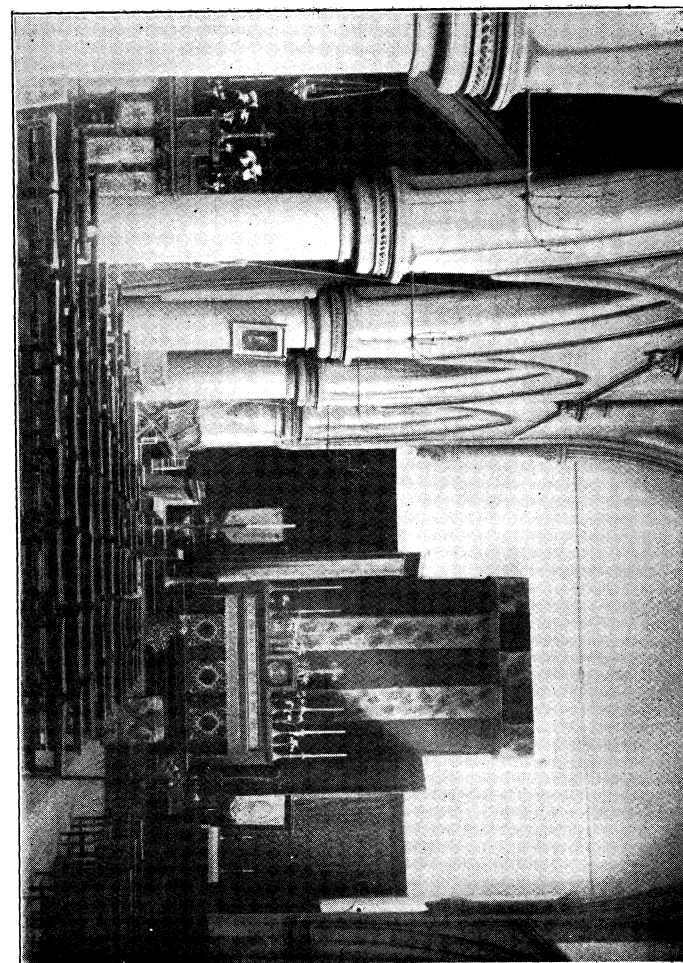
No. 2, Lupton Street, is still in the hands of a Community, being the English House of the Community of the Resurrection, of Grahamstown, so that fortunately we still have Sisters helping at St. Benet's.

The ceremonial at St. Benet's developed considerably in the days of Fr. Hall. Incense and portable lights were gradually introduced and indeed were never afterwards abandoned or even modified at the time when their legality was disputed by the Lambeth Opinion, when even the most prominent churches made certain concessions which have long since been forgotten.

The oak tabernacle on the High Altar (now in the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament) was made by a local carpenter; not only was the Blessed Sacrament reserved for occasional sick communions but also from time to time for the comfort and devotion of the faithful, although it was impossible to get permission for continuous reservation at that period.

Towards the end of his incumbency, Fr. Hall found it necessary to leave the parish for a prolonged period in the careful charge of the Rev. J. Vicars Foote, still remembered kindly by some of the older folk. Shortly after his return, Fr. Hall decided to get permission to exchange livings with the Rev. G. V. Briscoe, Vicar of St. Peter's, Staines, who was accordingly appointed Vicar of St. Benet's in 1901.

NEW HIGH ALTAR, 1907



### CHAPTER III.

#### DIFFICULT TIMES.

FATHER Briscoe lives in the memory of those who knew him as an extremely original man of wide culture. His interests were largely scientific and literary and he was, among other things, a member of the well-known Savage Club, so that from time to time such famous characters as the eccentric and remarkable O'Dell came into our ken, the latter remembered for a clever yodelling song sung in his extreme old age at one of our concerts.

Fr. Briscoe's sermons were as arresting as the man himself and consisted of beautiful thoughts and arguments only half expressed, followed by long pauses for his hearers to complete the thoughts for themselves. After these many years the writer remembers a sermon starting with the habits of the common earthworm and leading on to a consideration of the attributes of God ; another, on the scientific aspects of the human soul with a new theory of its ponderability, and also a remarkably beautiful Lenten course on the life of St. Elizabeth of Hungary.

To Fr. Briscoe also belongs the credit of holding the first Vicarage Garden Fête which has since become so popular. On this first occasion he prepared a programme, to be sold at a few pence, which contained a learned and interesting article on the ancient history of Kentish Town. Unfortunately we have been unable to trace a copy of it. If any reader should ever discover one, perhaps he would kindly show it to the clergy of the parish.

Meanwhile the fabric of the church continued to cause general anxiety and often Mass was punctuated by small fragments of plaster falling among the servers. The wide chancel arch was particularly in a very bad way and was saved by a special steel bar being inserted to clamp the sides of the arch together. This bar almost hidden at the base of the rood can still partly be seen. The South aisle had to be boarded off as dangerous while a certain amount of underpinning and partial rebuilding went on, but it became a matter of common knowledge that owing to the enormous weight of

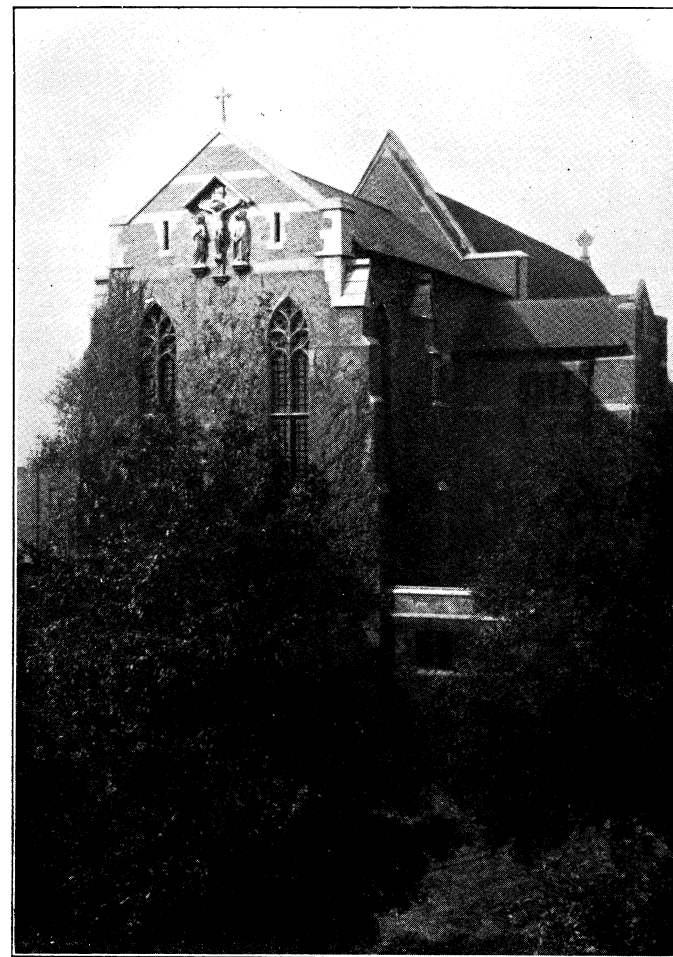
the nave roof and the insufficient foundations, the structure would always be a source of worry. Accordingly extensive alterations were made to the roof.

It was probably about this time that there was a tentative proposal to pull down the church and redistribute the parish but this was fortunately averted, largely by the energy of the Vicar and Churchwardens of that day.

One of the splendid legacies of Fr. Hall was an excellent Churchwarden, Mr. George T. Edington, without whose name no history of St. Benet's would be complete. He and his wife and children were all, for years, entirely devoted to the welfare of the church, generous and foremost in every good work, full of hope in difficult times and beloved by every member of St. Benet's congregation. He later on met with many trials and bore them all with the splendid fortitude which was a product of a noble mind and sincere religion.

The chancel at this time was a temporary structure only a few feet in depth with a huge expanse of plain whitewashed wall, unbroken by windows, which made a very blank and abrupt ending to the church. Fr. Briscoe conceived the idea of painting the entire wall in tempera to give the impression of a stone screen pierced by various openings and this he did with the sole help of one young workman, a member of the congregation. A young local artist, Mr. W. Kingsley, painted three huge canvases in tempera to represent stained glass windows glowing in richest colours and a rising Belgian artist very kindly painted in a more than life-size crucifix. This scheme naturally had its limitations, but was considered at the time an improvement and certainly when illumined by the setting sun on long summer evenings, gave a mysterious and rich effect.

This mural decoration was however destined to have a very short existence, as soon afterwards Fr. Briscoe resigned the living and the Rev. H. T. Valentine his successor came and soon decided that the building of a permanent and worthy chancel should no longer be delayed.



CHANCEL EXTERIOR



OLD NAVE WITH NEW CHANCEL

#### CHAPTER IV.

#### THE BUILDING OF THE CHANCEL.

**B**EFORE we go on to describe the building of the present chancel which was the beginning of the new church, let us say what we can in praise of the original nave. It was in the opinion of those qualified to judge a building of excellent proportions, spacious and airy, and capable of accommodating a large body of worshippers. There is little doubt that if it had been constructed more scientifically with adequate foundations, and completed with a fine chancel in the same style, it would have held its own with any of the neighbouring churches.

The Rev. Henry Tristram Valentine became Vicar of St. Benet's in 1906, and arrived fresh from his work of restoring St. Paul's, Walden. He soon set to work upon the somewhat more exacting task presented by St. Benet's.

Messrs. Bodley and Hare were instructed to prepare plans for a chancel and vestries. As a temporary measure, the East wall was denuded of its colouring, a new High Altar of simple oak was installed and a lofty dossal with shallow canopy and wings.

The laying of the foundation stone by the Bishop of Islington took place on the eve of All Saints, 1908, and the work proceeded at a rapid pace. The strange spring which ran beneath the chancel was diverted, the huge chancel arch, a striking feature of the old church, was enclosed in stonework and made much narrower and the chancel built as we see it to-day. Striking features are the simple black and white marble pavement, and the flat moulded and painted ceiling. It is interesting to recall that in order that they should be permanent the gilded stars were fashioned of lead and firmly applied to the woodwork.

The new chancel and vestries were consecrated by the Bishop of London on July 15th, 1909, and the description which we now quote was published in the "Guardian."



"The church and parish of St. Benet and All Saints, Kentish Town, has gone on from strength to strength since the appointment to the vicariate, barely three years ago, of the Rev. H. T. Valentine. On All Saints' Eve the foundation stone of a new chancel was laid; this was reported in our issue of November 4th, when we gave a short sketch of the history of this parish since its formation a quarter of a century ago. Only just over eight months have elapsed since that memorable occasion, and on Thursday night the new chancel, organ-loft and three spacious vestries for clergy, servers, and choir were dedicated by the Bishop of London. The new chancel, which was designed by Mr. Hare, the late Mr. Bodley's partner, is a lofty and very stately building, in fourteenth century Gothic, with seven beautifully traceried windows. The roof is panelled and richly painted, and the flooring is of black and white marble. The Altar, with its canopy and wings, is of unusual height—it stands nine steps above the level of the nave, and is certainly one of the most dignified in the diocese. Three sanctuary lamps of antique silver plate are kept burning before it. The Bishop who wore his cope and mitre was accompanied by his resident Chaplain, the Rev. M. P. Gillson. He was conducted across the vicarage garden by the churchwardens (Mr. G. T. Edington and Mr. T. Doughty), preceded by a crucifix and taper-bearers, the path being lined on either side by the local troop of Boy-scouts. The troop afterwards formed up in the South aisle of the church, which was filled to overflowing. The Bishop standing in the sacristy, first dedicated the vestries. The procession then passed on to the chancel. There were about twenty-five visiting clergy, including the Rural Dean of St. Pancras (the Rev. E. L. Metcalfe), who, as well as the Vicar, was vested in a cope. The Bishop, standing in the chancel, said the Prayer of Dedication, after which Psalm 121 was sung. The Bishop next proceeded to the Altar, and, after some Versicles and Responses, read a special prayer, which was followed by Psalm 122, Gregorian tones being used. Then followed the hallowing of the sanctuary and next a banner, which had been made and presented by Miss Giles, who has been a good friend to St. Benet's, was solemnly dedicated by the Bishop.

*Urbs Beata* having been sung to the plainsong tune, the Bishop divesting himself of his cope and mitre, proceeded to the pulpit, and preached a very earnest and inspiring sermon from St. Luke v. 4 (part of the Gospel for the week.) In his introductory words he said he could not tell them what a joy it was to him to stand for the first time in that pulpit and preach to them. He did not know any church in the diocese which had been of more anxiety to him. They had had



DEMOLITION OF NAVE — A

great anxiety about the structure ; time after time reports had reached him that the church was in danger of falling down. Again and again had he had other anxieties about this church, and then to come that night and see it crowded from end to end ; to see a body of young men gathered round the Vicar to fight the battles of the church ; to see the boys of the neighbourhood—churchmen of the future—showing their readiness to stand by their church ; to know what a faithful parish priest they had—a friend of his for twenty years, who had laboured there for three years, and please God would be spared for many years' service ; to see their beautiful dignified chancel, and to know that a place which had been to him as Bishop such a ground of anxiety would be for the rest of its existence a ground of triumph and of hope—that was, indeed, an evening to mark with a white star. So he came there with a heart full of love toward them, and all the more enjoying seeing them because it was his first pastoral visit.

“ After the sermon the hymn ‘ For all the Saints ’ was sung, during which a collection was taken for the Building Fund. A procession followed, headed by thurifers and boat boys, followed by the processional cross and taper-bearers. Then came the choir and the visiting clergy, three banners, each with taper-bearers in attendance, being carried at intervals in the ranks. After them came a processional crucifix and lights, the Ceremoniarius, the Bishop's Chaplain with his pastoral staff, and finally the Bishop, attended on either side by the assistant clergy of the parish in dalmatic and tunicle. The processional was ‘ Hail ! festal day.’ The procession having returned to the chancel, a solemn *Te Deum* was sung, during which the use of incense was continued. Then all knelt for the Benediction, given by the Bishop.

“ Subsequently the Vicar and Mrs. Valentine entertained a large number of their friends and parishioners in the parish room. The Bishop said a few words to the assembly, in which he spoke in very high terms of the work of the Vicar, who, he said, was assisted by two excellent colleagues. The Bishop left amidst hearty cheers and musical honours. The needs of the church are still great, the cost of the recent additions and improvements being £4,800. There has been paid, promised, or assured about £3,000, leaving £1,800 still to be raised. On Sunday there were full congregations both morning and evening. In the morning Gounod's *Messe Solennelle* was rendered at the High Celebration, and in the evening Canon Scott Holland, who, as an old friend of the Vicar, has shown great interest in St. Benet's, preached a stirring sermon, the service closing with another grand procession. It should be added that the music was well rendered under the direction of

Mr. G. Riddle, the organist, the organ on each occasion being supplemented by a few instrumentalists."

A considerable sum was spent also at this time in repairs and improvements to the Parish Hall, including the provision of a raised permanent stage.

These signs of activity brought many new people to the church at this time so that often the seating capacity was exceeded and chairs had to be brought from the neighbouring Hall.

Fr. Valentine was fortunately assisted by able curates, the first of whom was the Rev. J. A. Douglas, now the well-known Canon Douglas. Having a genius for children's work, he reorganized the Sunday Schools and introduced the first issue of the now famous Faith Press stamps. His Christian Evidence lectures on Parliament Hill were learned and most effective, many of those who heard him there eventually attending the church. The Rev. L. D. Rutherford, later Vicar of Holy Cross, St. Pancras, and later of St. Andrew's, Worthing, joined the staff as deacon and soon became very popular. Excellent results followed from Processions of Witness which went out in great force nearly every Sunday before Evensong, singing through the parish and attracting much attention. Occasionally in winter these became torchlight processions.

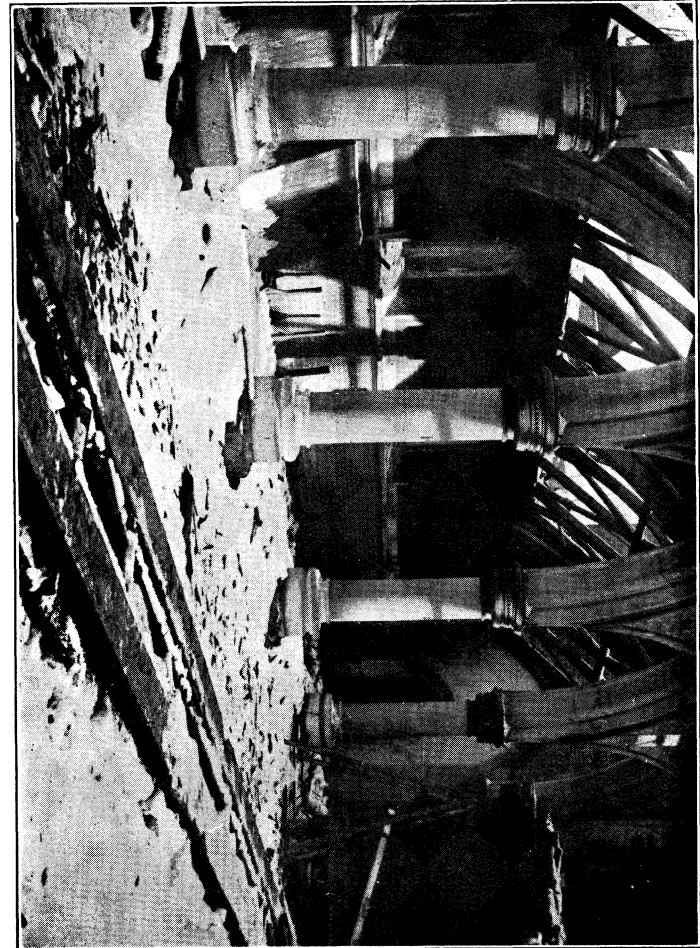
St. Benet's was again showing signs of vigorous life. The church had for years attracted many boys and young men and these continued to increase until it was possible to see sixty or seventy of them at Mass Sunday by Sunday. Later on, of course, as at every church, most of these young men went off to the war, some were killed, a few came back to St. Benet's, but the length of the war loosened the ties and the majority of them were lost to St. Benet's. But this is a digression and we must return to the history of that time.

In 1908, the Rev. J. A. Douglas left St. Benet's and in 1909 became Vicar of St. Luke's, Camberwell, and the Rev. C. A. Porter, a quiet and extremely lovable man, came as deacon and did excellent work for a few years.

But all this building and reconstruction had cost a great deal of money and it seemed almost impossible to free the church from heavy debt. From time to time Fr. Valentine went away to other work with the idea of raising funds for the church, and the parish was efficiently run in the meantime by Fr. Rutherford.

At length Fr. Valentine decided to resign and the living was offered to the Rev. Robert Caledon Ross, assistant priest of St. Dunstan's, Stepney, who was instituted to the living in 1913.

DEMOLITION OF NAVE — B





DURING REBUILDING — CHRISTMAS, 1927

## CHAPTER V.

### ST. BENET'S UNDER FR. ROSS.

FATHER Ross was the second Irishman to be Vicar of St. Benet's. Like many of his countrymen, he was kindly, vigorous and an eloquent preacher. St. Benet's owes him much for keeping the church going so well during the difficult days of the war when such large numbers of young and middle-aged men were called away.

Directly after the war the few institutions such as Scouts and Cubs which had of necessity languished, or had been dropped, were immediately started again and soon were in a flourishing condition.

In the meantime the foundations of both church and vicarage gave trouble and on the advice of Mr. Blomfield Jackson a considerable sum was spent in underpinning. In justice to the original architect and builders, it ought to be said that ponds and springs on top of a hill are somewhat unusual and that the swelling and shrinking of the clay in alternate wet and dry seasons can work havoc with foundations.

The stoke-hole of the church constantly got flooded and had in winter to be pumped out daily. The continued wetness was naturally bad for the heating apparatus which from time to time had to be partially renewed.

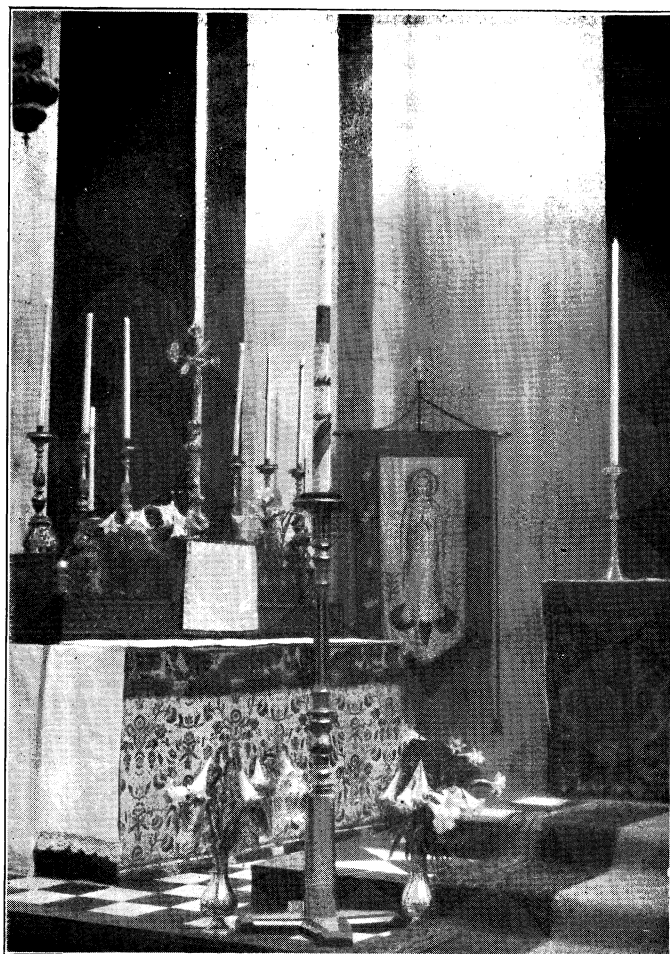
Many improvements were made to the church in Fr. Ross's day. The Altar of the Blessed Sacrament was separated from the nave by a simple wooden screen and some splendid wrought-iron gates were given by Mr. R. F. W. Fincham, one of the churchwardens of that time. These alterations meant that there was now no difficulty in getting permission for the Holy Sacrament to be continuously reserved which of course has been the practice ever since.

Mr. Fincham also generously gave the splendid Rood (mentioned in the list of Memorials) which is such a striking feature of St. Benet's church.

In all Fr. Ross's work both in the church and parish he was assisted by a devoted band of women and this chapter would be incomplete without a reference to Madame Norna de Rougemont, a friend of Fr. Valentine who had come to the parish in his time and who continued to live and work here until her extreme old age. Possessed of sufficient means to live in comparative comfort, she chose rather to live in one room and devote all her spare money and all her sympathy and energy to the church and the poor, loving especially those who most needed someone to care and plan for them.

She was a woman of much culture and an able musician, often playing the organ for special services and at Catechism. One of her activities was the making of the big carpet still in use at the High Altar, by securing the help of many people, including girls and boys, to do sections of the work. There must be many men and women for whom this carpet revives happy recollections and grateful memories of a holy and devoted life.





DURING REBUILDING — EASTER, 1928

## CHAPTER VI.

### BUILDING THE NEW NAVE AND CHAPELS.

THE closer we get to the present day, the less is the need for writing at length. When the present Vicar, the Rev. H. H. C. Richardson, was instituted in October, 1925, he was faced with the urgent necessity of saving the nave at an estimated cost of nearly £4,000. He was, however, advised by experts who were well acquainted with the many costly and futile attempts to bolster up the structure, that the only satisfactory course would be to pull down and rebuild. Mr. Cecil Hare, of Messrs. Bodley and Hare, was the obvious architect to call in to prepare plans that would harmonise with the magnificent chancel designed by the same firm. It was thought wise this time to dispense with aisles altogether. The scheme included two new chapels, one to adjoin the chancel on the South side and the other consisting of a small transept on the North of the nave. The cost of the work was estimated at about £14,500, a sum that was eventually exceeded by a large amount owing mainly to the foundations having to be carried down much deeper than had been expected.

An important meeting of the communicants was held on June 14th, 1926, at which the alternative proposals of patching up and rebuilding were fully explained, and a resolution was unanimously passed pledging their enthusiastic support to the scheme for entirely rebuilding the nave.

It was also decided at that meeting to make a substantial addition to the Nave Fund by endeavouring to raise £500 on the next All Saints' Day. When the day arrived intense enthusiasm greeted the announcement made at the Parish Social that the total exceeded the £500. By 10 p.m. £600 was well in sight. All this is mentioned as testimony to the amazing determination with which the congregation faced what at the start seemed an almost overwhelming task. As time went on the fund steadily grew, and it should be recorded that St. Benet's and its friends contributed to the scheme in all nearly £2,150. All this enthusiasm, built on the solid foundation of the prayers of the faithful, helped to bring about the almost miraculous happening of a year later.

In the meantime the cracks were becoming more and more alarming until on a Friday in November, 1927, the nave was condemned as a dangerous structure by the London County Council. No time could be lost. In two days provision had to be made for accommodating the congregation on the Sunday. Authority was hurriedly obtained from the Bishop for the closing of the nave and for the temporary resumption of services in the Hall, the original Mission Church. The choir stalls were removed from the chancel which could still be used for early Masses. Many can remember the sadness with which the old nave was dismantled and much of its furniture removed for safe keeping till happier times should come. And they were to come far sooner than even the most optimistic could have hoped, for within a very short time the Bishop of London intimated that he intended to allocate for the rebuilding of St. Benet's a legacy of about £12,000, left by a Miss Jeanette Elizabeth Crossthwaite for a purpose of this kind. This tremendous news was announced to the people at the Sung Mass in the Hall on Sunday, December 11th. Strangely enough, Miss Crossthwaite in her young days lived for about twenty years in Brecknock Road, and must have known St. Benet's well, although she did not attend the church.

Straightway the work of pulling down was begun. The tiles from the roof were retained to be put back again on the new roof. It is of interest to record that most of the building material from the old nave was used again in the rebuilding, and what could not be used above ground helped to form the cement concrete of the amazing new foundations, which at certain important parts reached a depth of about 29 feet. The foundations were reinforced with steel rods varying from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in thickness, and weighing about 50 tons. In a short time the new walls began to rise rapidly.

On May 5th, 1928, the Bishop of Willesden (the late Dr. Perrin) in the presence of a large gathering blessed and placed at the centre of the West end of the nave the Commemoration Stone. This stone had been part of the old nave. The work progressed according to plan and was completed in good time for the consecration by the Bishop of London on All Saints' Eve. We quote a part of a long notice in "The Church Times" of November 2nd.

"On Wednesday last, the church was crowded long before the time set for the service of consecration not only with parishioners, but also with former members and friends, some of whom had made long journeys to be present. Just before 8 p.m. the first procession entered. In it were Mr. Goldsmith the foreman, Mr. C. T. Bennett, representing Messrs. Downs

BUILDING OPERATIONS — NEW NAVE



the builders, Mr. C. G. Hare the architect, Mr. Clifton Kelway, Secretary of the Incorporated Church Building Society, a large number of visiting clergy including the Rev. A. Bryant and the Rev. C. A. P. Porter, former assistant priests, the Rev. A. M. Bashford, Secretary of the London Diocesan Fund, the Rev. H. T. Valentine and the Rev. R. C. Ross, former vicars, and the Rural Dean of St. Pancras. At 8 o'clock the churchwardens (Messrs. E. C. Clements and G. L. Donaldson), servers, and the parish clergy (the Rev. H. H. C. Richardson, vicar, and the Rev. W. G. Cameron, assistant priest) went out to conduct the Bishop of London to the North-West door. The Bishop was attended by his registrar, his chaplain, and the Rev. R. Noël Brown and the Rev. G. A. Collinson, former assistant priests, as deacons of honour.

After the reading of the petition to consecrate, the Bishop knocked on the door in the customary manner, and, when it was opened, sprinkled and censed the threshold, and then from before the font pronounced the Peace. Then the procession moved forward to Psalm 122 ("I was glad when they said unto me") and the Bishop knelt at the faldstool before the rood for the *Veni Creator*. During this he made the Sign of the Alpha and Omega in the ashes on the floor of the nave, and at its close offered the keys of the church at the high altar. After a special Litany, the Bishop said the long and beautiful Prayer of Consecration in the style of the Eucharistic Preface; and processions were made to the two chapels (South and North of the nave) for their individual hallowing. Then came the rejoicings; a series of Benedictions pronounced by the Bishop at the high altar with responses sung by the choir to a polyphonic setting by Ravanello. Here the new bells, named after two faithful communicants, were rung joyfully, and the people sang, "Praise my soul, the King of Heaven."

In the course of his inspiring address the Bishop said, "The church of England stands for the love of God because it holds to the Incarnation. We are the body of Christ to carry the message of the love of God into the world. Let this be the future privilege and task of all members of St. Benet's."

## CHAPTER VII.

### THE MUSIC.

NO history of St. Benet's would be complete without a chapter devoted to the music of the church. Yet there is little historically to say on the subject that could not be said with almost equal truth of any similar church.

From the very first, Plainsong has been used for the Psalms and Canticles, being more in accordance with Catholic tradition. The Psalter of Helmore, the pioneer of the revival of Plainsong, was used for many years until the more modern Briggs and Frere Psalter was introduced about ten years ago.

For the music of the Mass and of Evensong, the taste of pre-war days was for more ornate music than is thought meet for worship at St. Benet's to-day. Continental Masses, by such composers as Gounod and Schubert, have been discovered in the music store and the writer well remembers as a choirboy singing one of Schubert's settings for the Mass accompanied by organ and orchestra. Elaborate anthems by English composers of Victorian times were also frequently sung.

To-day our musical taste prefers simplicity in its church music. While some of the best accompanied settings of the Mass and Canticles by Victorian and living composers are retained, polyphonic music of the modern English composers, such as Ley and Charles Wood, the sixteenth century Italian, Viadana, and our English Orlando Gibbon is also sung. At Mass, a hymn is usually sung after the *Agnus Dei*, but on great festivals, particularly at Corpus Christi, a suitable motet takes its place. Anthems are also sung at Evensong on appropriate occasions. Of recent years, special care has been given to the rendering of the appropriate music of the liturgical services at Candlemas and throughout Holy Week.

It is perhaps not out of place to mention here that when the nave was rebuilt the choir-stalls were moved from the chancel to their present position in the nave, thus leaving the chancel free for ceremonial and enabling the choir more effectively to lead the singing of the congregation.

Some few years ago, the English Hymnal was introduced though some of the best of the "Ancient and Modern" tunes are still sung.



LAYING OF THE COMMEMORATION STONE, 5th MAY, 1928

During the Nativity tableaux at Christmas, mentioned elsewhere, a small choir sings from the organ loft appropriate music drawn from many composers of different periods, but all harmonising in and contributing to the one purpose of shewing forth the great mystery of the Incarnation. A setting of the Passion by Handel has also been sung during Passiontide for the last two years.

For the last fifteen years, boys from St. Benet's choir have sung in the Westminster Abbey Special Choir, thus widening their musical taste.

Those responsible for the music of the church try to use only music which is suited to the church and within the scope of the choir, seeking only the greater glory of God.

### THE ORGAN.

The first organ used in the church was built by Messrs. Gray and Davison for the second Crystal Palace Exhibition in 1861. It was a very fine two-manual instrument with eleven speaking stops and the usual couplers. The action was "tracker" and although to the last this organ sounded beautiful in the church, in recent years the action became thoroughly worn out and it was necessary to consider rebuilding the organ. As soon as the nave was completed, a fund for this purpose was inaugurated. Several specifications were submitted to the various firms of organ builders, but owing to the high costs prevailing a less ambitious scheme had to be substituted. Finally the contract was given to Messrs. Richards and Matthews of 9, Castle Mews, Finchley, London, and the work was begun in 1933 under the personal supervision of Mr. Ivor Davies, a former choirboy, and later organist. The present instrument has seven speaking stops on the swell organ, with sub- and super-couplers, seven stops on the great organ, and three stops on the pedal organ, together with the necessary couplers. The pipework of the old organ, which was mostly of an excellent quality, was incorporated into the rebuilt instrument. The organ is still incomplete, provision having been made for the future inclusion of an open diapason on the pedal organ and "voix celestes" and tremulant in the swell organ. Owing to the very fine acoustics of the church, the organ sounds adequate but a tremendous improvement would be made by the completion of the pedal organ.

In April, 1934, the first series of organ recitals was given by some prominent church organists and was much appreciated.



The specification of the present organ is as follows :—

#### GREAT

1. Open Diapason 8 ft.
2. Spitz Flote 8 „
3. Dulciana 8 „
4. Lieblich Gedackt 8 „
5. Principal 4 „
6. Wald Flute 4 „
7. Fifteenth 2 „

#### SWELL

1. Open Diapason 8 ft.
2. Stopped Diapason 8 „
3. Salicional 8 „
4. Voix Celestes 8 „
- (Prepared for)
5. Principal 4 „
6. Mixture 2 Ranks
7. Contra Oboe 16 „
8. Trumpet 8 „
- Tremulant

#### PEDAL

1. Bourdon 16 ft.
2. Bass Flute 8 „
3. Contra Oboe 16 „
4. Open Diapason 16 „
- (Prepared for)

#### COUPLERS

1. SW.—GT.
2. GT.—PED.
3. SW.—PED.
4. Swell Octave
5. Swell Sub-Octave
6. Swell Unison Off

Three Pistons to Great Organ

Four Pistons to Swell Organ.

Three Composition Pedals to Great Organ

Great to Pedal on and off Poppet

Balanced Swell Pedal

Pressures—

Pipe-work—Great and Pedal  $3\frac{1}{4}$  ins. W.G.

„ Swell  $3\frac{3}{4}$  „ „

Action 6 „ „

Manuals C.C.-C. Pedals C.C.C.-F.

Tubular Pneumatic Action

Mecvent Electric Blower



ORGAN LOFT

## CHAPTER VIII.

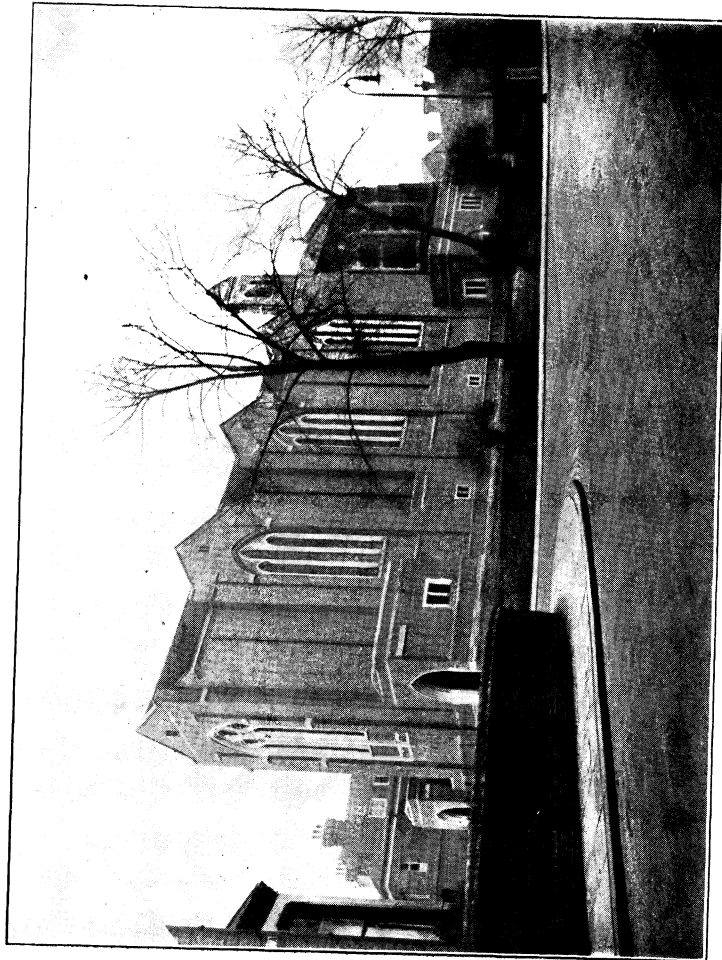
### SOCIAL LIFE AND THE CHURCH HALL.

A VIGOROUS social life, reflected in numerous organisations which have changed with the times, has always been a characteristic of St. Benet's in its days of large and small congregations alike, and the church hall has naturally been the centre of social life ever since it ceased to be used as a Mission Church.

The popular concert parties of pre-war days have ended and the more circumscribed dramatic society of to-day has taken their place, but the tradition of performances in the hall by amateurs, members of the congregation, has never died. A comparatively poor church will usually turn to concerts and entertainments as a profitable and very agreeable means of raising funds and the total amount raised in the church hall for St. Benet's during fifty years would probably surprise by its largeness.

In the early days of St. Benet's minstrel societies, coached by "Little Thomas" of the famous "Mohawks" won considerable renown. The present dramatic society known as St. Benet's Players was started by a group of churchwomen during the War and in its chequered history has produced every conceivable type of play. The dramatic life of St. Benet's has had its purely religious side expressed not only in the satisfying and complete ceremonial at the altar that has always been highly valued, but also in the yearly presentation of Christmas tableaux begun at least fifteen years ago in the church hall, and for some years now performed in the church, where the chancel is admirably suited for such purposes. A tradition, though not so old, of a passion play at Easter has also been established; this takes place in the hall.

The problem of raising money has been lessened to some extent by the extreme good fortune of St. Benet's Vicarage in having a pleasantly situated lawn behind the church. The yearly garden fête in the summer has become an institution which few would miss for its social side, and at nightfall the gay picture of hundreds of coloured lights and revellers dancing on the lawn in the shadow of the church takes one back several centuries to the days of Merrie England.



EXTERIOR WITH NEW NAVE

The annual Christmas Fair in the hall, though less picturesque, has proved to be both an enjoyable social function and a valuable means of raising money.

The work among children has naturally gone on right from the beginning. The Catechism and Sunday School have been served by devoted bands of teachers, both men and women and of all ages, who have been content with the comparative obscurity of their work in the knowledge that they have been laying the foundations of the Faith in the minds of children, work secondary only to that of the clergy themselves.

When Lord Baden Powell of Gilwell (as he is now) scattered the fertile seeds of "Scouting for Boys" in 1907, the ground at St. Benet's was already prepared to receive them, and a troop of Boy Scouts, the third to be formed in St. Pancras, was immediately started in 1908. Wolf Cubs, officially recognised by Scout Headquarters in 1914, had been anticipated at St. Benet's by the formation of Junior Scouts in 1912. A Rover Scout Crew, the third component of the complete Scout Group, was added in 1924. Scout and Cub camps have been an important part of the life of St. Benet's regularly since the year 1920, though there had been camps before the War. The Scout Camp has been aptly called St. Benet's-in-the-Fields, as right from the beginning there has always been a properly appointed camp chapel in which Mass has been said daily and sung with ceremonial on Sundays and festivals.

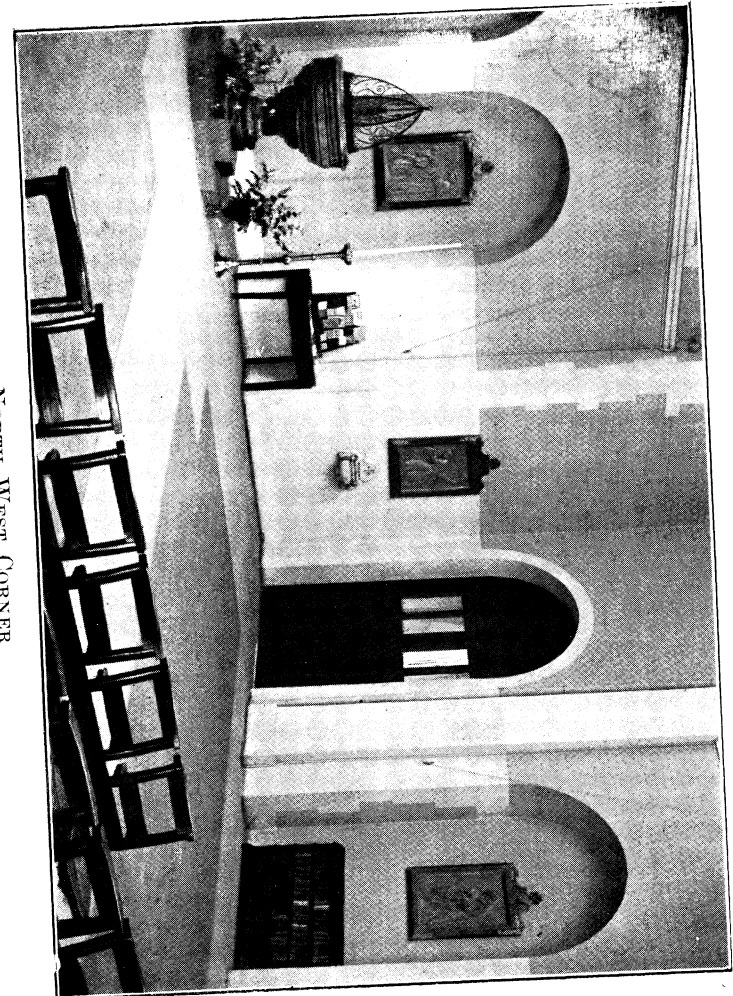
A girls' club and a Guild of St. Agnes for girls were followed in 1930 by the formation of a Girl Guide Company. A year or two later, a Brownie Pack, the equivalent of Wolf Cubs for girls was formed; the striking success in numbers and enthusiasm of the Guides and Brownies culminated this year in the formation of a company of Rangers, the "grown up" Girl Guides.

There has been a boys' club on Saturday nights in the church hall for 27 years. A vicar's Bible class for younger men and a Bible class for younger women have now become established on Sunday afternoons.

The mothers at St. Benet's have been a body bound together for many years in ties of friendship, service and worship in the Mothers' Union and the Bible Class. It is impossible to omit the name of Miss E. C. Palmer, for many years at the head of a happy band of workers among the mothers.

All ages in the church meet in the mixed social club which is in its second year of life and whose formation reflects the spirit of keeping up with the times.

NORTH WEST CORNER



The reader will have noticed how much the church hall has been mentioned already in this chapter. The church hall is of course absolutely essential to the successful running of the parish ; those who communicate at the same Altar are inevitably drawn together socially in the parish hall.

But the parish hall has remained much as it was fifty years ago, principally because of the unavoidable heavy expenditure on the structure of the church. Now having a sound and beautiful church in which to worship, the congregation has set itself the task in this Jubilee year of modernising the hall by extending and improving it. The renovated hall will include two additional rooms, together with a kitchen and adequate cloakroom accommodation, and a completely new oak floor, which is now absolutely necessary.

To raise the necessary funds is a formidable task, for money is not plentiful, but with the help of generous friends new and old and its own hard work and sacrifice, the congregation hopes to meet in what will be almost a new hall at the annual parish Social in the octave of All Saints in this, the Jubilee year.

## EPILOGUE.

AFTER a review of the history of St. Benet's one is inevitably brought up against the question, "What of the future?" The future of St. Benet's is of course bound up with the outlook for the Church as a whole. We do not think that a calm observer can look forward to the future with natural equanimity. If the past has been full of adventure and difficulties to be overcome in maintaining the very existence of St. Benet's, the future will see a struggle on a wider field, the struggle for the existence of the Church as a whole. We think that in the first place the disestablishment of the Church will probably come sooner or later. This cannot but mean that for a time the financial resources of the Church will be somewhat depleted, to say the least, by the decrease in the income from endowments. Thus congregations of the future may have to raise every penny of church expenditure themselves. There will have to be even greater self-sacrifice on the part of the faithful, accompanied by further economies.

Secondly, it is improbable that any of us will see much increase in the numbers of churchgoers in our time unless there be a religious revival such as there was a century ago. But viewing the matter dispassionately, we think we can be sure of one thing, that we have now got down to an irreducible minimum of strength. If we do not gain in numbers, we shall not lose—at any rate, the Church as a whole will not lose. But St. Benet's is likely to suffer for many more years from the fact that its younger people when they marry decide to make a home for themselves further out of London in the new suburbs. As Catholics who believe in the divine institution of the family, we can only admire the tendency in the newer estates of "one house, one family," while regretting that it is not possible for it to be realised in St. Benet's parish, owing to the existence of large houses originally built for Victorian middle-class families who could afford to keep servants. But St. Benet's loss will be the gain of other parishes. These losses apart, there will always remain a large population of all ages to be converted.

"Give me the child . . . . ." The English Church has not altogether realised that religious education in Sunday Schools is not sufficient without a religious background to

secular education. The task of winning the adult who has not had any religious education is almost insuperable; but if the foundations are well laid in the child's mind, it is possible he may never be completely lost to the Church. We think, then, that the Church as a whole will come to realise how she has failed in this vital necessity, in allowing her schools to be taken from her and in not building new schools wherever she builds new churches. It may happen, then, that instead of trusting her children for half-an-hour on Sundays to the teaching and care of voluntary churchworkers whose devotion and enthusiasm, however, do not compensate for their lack of technical training, she will appoint full-time teachers for her children, perhaps even teaching orders of monks and nuns will grow up, who will spend their lives winning and keeping the children for Christ. Who knows but that in a hundred years' time St. Benet's may have its own day schools!

Finally, and this consideration must to some extent qualify our previous remarks, the next fifty years may see fundamental changes in the structure of society. In other countries, these changes have been accomplished with bloodshed and strife. The Church, deservedly and undeservedly, has been the object of attack; many of her members have suffered materially, some even have been called upon to give their lives for her. So it must ever be; the Church, if she is true to her mission, can never remain for long at peace with the rulers of this world. We in England may not be called upon to suffer greatly, however, for in this country there is less open opposition to the Church than elsewhere.

With the thought of the uncertainties and trials of the future in our minds, let us conclude the history of fifty years of St. Benet's with a story.

A French peasant was at his labour in the fields when a telegram was brought to him announcing the death of the third of his sons to be killed in the War. With impassive countenance, he returned the message. "God found them ready," he said; "Tell my poor wife," and went on with his ploughing.

Whatever the future may bring to the Church, may we at St. Benet's ever be found ready for the Divine purpose.

# APPENDIX A.

## CLERGY

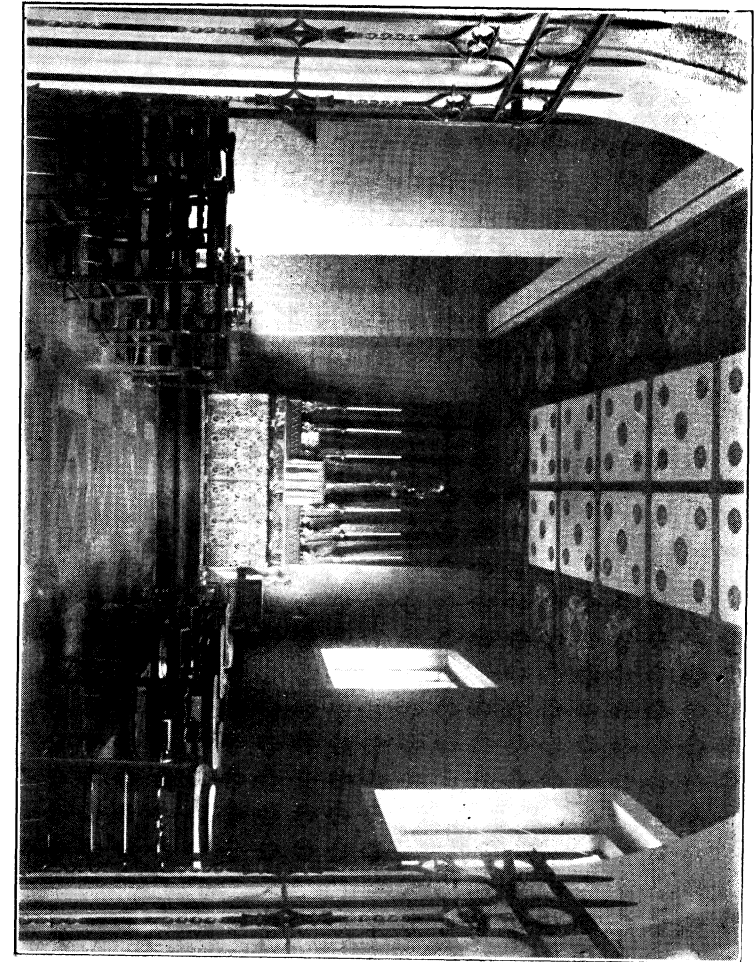
### VICARS

FRANK OAKLEY ROWLAND	...	...	1881-1887
HERBERT EDWARD HALL	...	...	1887-1901
GEORGE VILLIERS BRISCOE	...	...	1901-1906
HENRY TRISTRAM VALENTINE	...	...	1906-1913
ROBERT CALEDON ROSS	...	...	1913-1925
HARRY HERBERT COLEMAN RICHARDSON	...	...	1925-

### ASSISTANT PRIESTS

ARTHUR MANSFIELD MITCHELL	...	...	1886-1887
ARTHUR CHARLES ROBERTS	...	...	1889-1896
W. A. SHAKESPEAR	...	...	1889-1890
REGINALD ALBERT JAMES WALDRAM	...	...	1896-1897
HENRY DUNSBY	...	...	1897-1903
J. VICARS FOOTE	...	...	1899-1900
GEORGE SMITH	...	...	1903-1905
BASIL COBBETT	...	...	1905-1906
JOHN ALBERT DOUGLAS	...	...	1906-1908
LESLIE DOUGLAS RUTHERFORD	...	...	1907-1913
CLARENCE ALBERT PRATT PORTER	...	...	1908-1910
JOHN FINLAY MATTHEWS DUNCAN	...	...	1911-1913
FREDERICK ALPHONSE A. W. HEATON	...	...	1912-1913
ARTHUR SIDNEY BRYANT	...	...	1914-1916
RALPH NOËL BROWN	...	...	1917-1919
GEORGE ALFRED COLLINSON	...	...	1919-1925
WARD GRISWOLD CAMERON	...	...	1925-1933
IAN JAMES WILSON STURROCK	...	...	1932-1935
JAMES STANLEY TUTE	...	...	1935-

CHAPEL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT





# APPENDIX B.

## ORGANISTS

HENRY ARTHUR MEASOR	...	...	1881-1885
DOUGLAS E. AYLING	...	...	1885
MATHEW PATTERSON, M.A.	...	...	1886
Now Vicar of Todmorden, Lancs.			
DOUGLAS E. AYLING	...	...	1887-1892
KING HALL	...	...	1892-1893
BENJAMIN CURTIS, Mus. Bac.	...	...	1893-1895
PERCY HARMON, F.R.C.O.	...	...	1895-1901
HARRY ALLPRESS	...	...	1901-1903
M. FREEMAN	...	...	1903-1905
GEORGE J. RIDDLE	...	...	1905-1917
IVOR R. DAVIES, F.R.C.O.	...	...	1917-1918
WALTER HALEY	...	...	1918-1927
SYDNEY CARLESS STEBBINGS	...	...	1927-

## APPENDIX C.

### ORNAMENTS, INCLUDING MEMORIALS AND GIFTS.

#### The Chancel :—

- The Rood, designed by Messrs. Bodley and Hare, in memory of Alice Mary Fincham.  
High Altar candlesticks, of gilded wood, 18th century Italian. Four original and two reproductions. The bases shew the head of St. John the Baptist. Given by the architect, Mr. Hare, and some friends.  
High Altar Tabernacle, of 17th century Italian woodwork, given by communicants in 1933.  
Altar cards for the High Altar in Italian frames, given by Mr. W. T. Kingsmill.  
The three Sanctuary lamps, 18th century French. Bought when the new chancel was completed.  
The gilded woodwork above Sedilia, 17th century Italian, and a panel of Grinling Gibbons woodwork on a prayer desk, also an old Italian missal stand were given by the Rev. G. A. Collinson, who also gave the antique copper and brass candle brackets under the Rood.  
The oak clergy stalls and desks were given in memory of Jane Elizabeth Roberts.  
The Credence table is of the Georgian classic period.  
The priests' entry bell on wall was formerly the outside bell of the first church.  
The organ. Various portions were given as memorials to Norna de Rougemont and Ethel Mary May Brooker.

#### Stained Glass Windows :—

- In North West porch :—  
The Good Shepherd. In memory of John Henry Rowland.  
Madonna and Child. In memory of Sophia Rowland.  
In South East porch :—  
Ecce Homo. In memory of John Roberts.  
The Risen Lord. In memory of Mary Bartlett.  
In Lady Chapel :—  
St. Anne and St. Mary. In memory of Chesterfield Gayford.  
Sarah and Isaac. In memory of Ann Sarah Gayford.

#### Four superb windows by Kempe :—

- |                   |   |                  |
|-------------------|---|------------------|
| St. Pancras       | } | In memory of     |
| St. Benedict      | } | Henry Crosswell. |
| Madonna and Child | } | In memory of     |
| Our Lady          | } | Jane Nash.       |

#### In nave :—

- Windows by Messrs Burlison and Grylls.  
The present Bishop of London. Given by Cecil Hare.  
Bishop Juxon. In memory of Harriet Mabel Richardson.  
St. Erkenwald. In memory of Ellen Maxwell.  
St. Mellitus. Given by Mr. Thomas Holt Soul.  
St. Augustine. Given by Miss B. M. Kelham.  
St. Anselm. In memory of the Rev. Leslie Douglas Rutherford.  
Archbishop Laud. Given by the Rev. J. A. L. Harcastle.  
Archbishop Davidson. Given by the Rev. Henry Tristram Valentine.

#### The Nave :—

- The massive font of alabaster was given by the first people's warden, Edward Dietz, in memory of a beloved servant, Clemence St. Denis.  
The plain brass standard candlesticks were formerly on the High Altar of Christ Church, St. Leonards.  
The Stations of the Cross, from the studio of the Sisters of the Church, were given by two lifelong friends, K.V. and J. R.  
Eight wrought-iron candle-brackets were formerly in the chapel of St. Monica's Hostel, Brooke Street, Holborn.  
The Holy Water Stoup was given in memory of Gerald Robinson.  
The pulpit crucifix. In memory of Jane Eleanor and Madeline Louisa Cooper.  
Statue of Our Lady and the Holy Child. A vigorous and lively 18th century Italian work, given by the architect on the completion of the nave. A beautiful bracket was afterwards designed by him and given by the present vicar.  
The Della Robbia medallion on the North wall above the entrance to the Lady Chapel was given at the time of rebuilding.  
Icon of St. Nicholas near pulpit was given by Mr. Douglas Morris.  
The brass lectern was given by Henrietta Gregson fifty years ago.

The image of St. Benedict stands on one of the corbels of the original nave arcade. It was given by Daniel and Emilie Dunn. The small lamp in front is 18th century French on a fine old Italian iron bracket.

The bells (in bell cote) are named "Katherine" and "Jane" as a token of gratitude to K. V. and J. R.

Persian carpet between choir stalls, given by Jane Elizabeth Roberts.

Three Hymn Boards. 1. In memory of Agnes Lucy Shepherd.

2. In memory of Henry Swatridge

3. Given by Miss Phillips.

Four oak kneeling desks (in chapels). In memory of Frederick Hunt.

### **The Lady Chapel :—**

The Altar was designed by Mr. Hare and given as a war memorial, and especially in memory of Charles Atkins, Leonard James Catling, Francis James Dalley, Victor Edward Davies, Sidney Henderson, Horace Lionel Kingsmill, Frank Milton, Arthur James Balfour Pearson, John Llewellyn Rich, Gerald Dobson Postlethwaite Robinson and William Wright.

The Altar crucifix in memory of Alfred Ernest George Armstead.

The antique gilt Italian candlesticks, given by the Rev. I. J. W. Sturrock.

The antique French bronze candlesticks for Requiems, given by the Rev. G. A. Collinson.

The carpet. In memory of Charles Willis Townsend and Edith Townsend.

The Altar carpet. In memory of Alfred James Bantin.

Picture. Our Lady and the Holy Child. Given by A. C. Adams.

Arundel print. Birth of Our Lady. Given by Anne Curson.

Picture. 17th century Italian. St. Joseph and the Holy Child. Given by Mr. H. J. Davison.

Image of St. George after Donatello. Given by the 3rd St. Pancras Scouts.

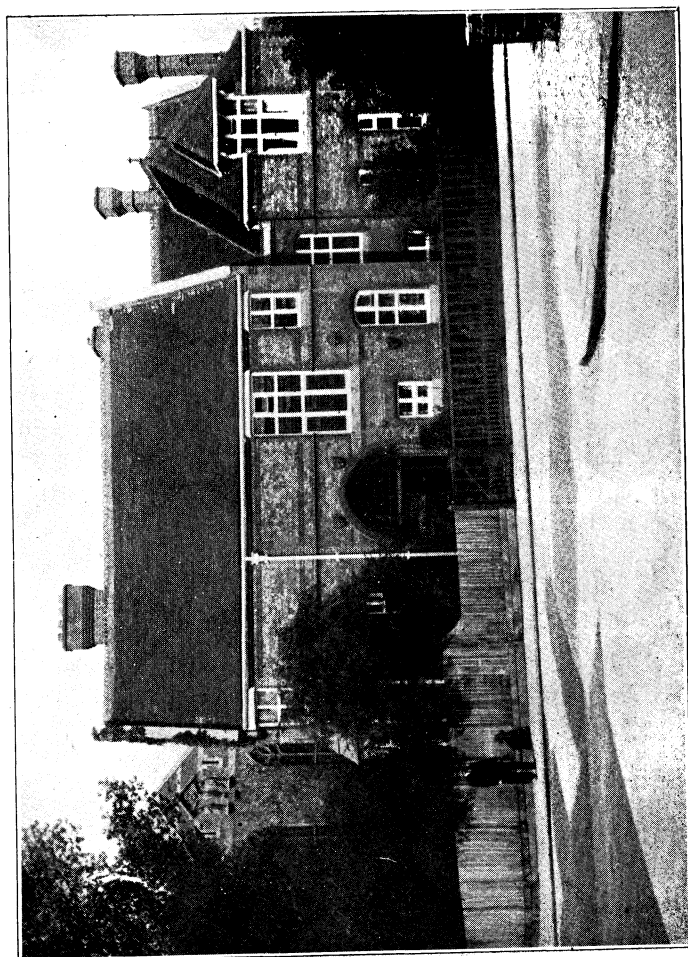
The Credence table is French Empire period.

Over North doorway. Picture, Pieta after Francia, given by Mrs. A. Gilson.

The children's Altar. Belonged originally to the Liddon School, then was the side altar in the church for many years, used again in the Liddon School, and was finally brought back in 1920 for use at the children's Mass.

The Crucifix. Gift of E. A. M.

The antique candlesticks. Given by Mr. W. T. Kingsmill.



THE VICARAGE

### Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament :—

Holy water Stoup. In memory of Lucas Edward Langley.  
Wrought-iron gates. Given by Mr. R. F. W. Fincham.

The Altar with its Tabernacle was formerly the High Altar of the church.

The Crucifix was formerly on the High Altar.

The Sanctuary lamp is antique Spanish.

### The Sacristy :—

The best Chalice is silver-gilt and of fine design and workmanship.

Small Ciborium for Reservation. In memory of Gerald Dobson Postlethwaite Robinson.

Larger Ciborium. In memory of Lucas Edward Langley.

Pyx with jewelled lid. In memory of Pearl Haycock.

Missal. In memory of Reginald Francis Jemmett and Edgar Harold Hatcher.

Processional Crucifix of gilded copper, a wonderful work of art, probably 15th century French. Given by the congregation in memory of George Thomas Edington.

Processional Crucifix of painted wood. In memory of Herbert Edgar Phillips.

Children's Processional Crucifix of wood. Given by the Rev. G. A. Collinson.

Old French hanging Crucifix, brass figure on oak cross. Given by Miss B. Lodge.

The Paschal candlestick was restored and redecorated in colour and gold in memory of Fanny Elizabeth Osborn.

Red wooden torches and bases. In memory of Mary Alice Vialls.

Brass missal stand given 50 years ago in memory of Jane King Petteridge.

The Sanctus bell and brass Holy Water vat in memory of Edgar Harold Hatcher.

The vestment chest was given by the congregation in remembrance of the faithful work of the Sisters Lavinia and Verena, S. S. C.

The Agnus Dei banner was probably the first banner possessed by St. Benet's.

The Blessed Sacrament banner was bought with money collected by the Rev. J. Vernon Foote. It was made larger by the addition of a tapestry border in 1929.

The banner of Our Lord reigning from the Cross was worked by Miss Giles and given in the early time of Fr. Valentine.

The banner of Our Lady was also worked locally and given somewhat later.

The Burial Pall, given by Miss J. Worrell.  
The best white cope. In memory of Charles Worrell.  
A red cope and also a beautiful medallion of 16th century embroidery now on a cope hood, were given by Miss Johnston, who in recent years has made and renovated many vestments.  
The carbuncle on the morse of the red cope was given by Miss Stanbridge.  
Various other vestments and frontals have been made and given by the Sisters of the Church.  
Other gifts too numerous to mention have been given by devoted people.

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